

Response to Office Action Mailed January 8, 2008

A. Claims In The Case

Claims 1-19 have been rejected. Claims 7, 11, 12, and 14-19 have been objected to. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 have been amended. Claims 6-7 and 10-19 have been canceled. Claims 20-22 have been added. Claims 1, 2-5, 8-9, and 20-22 are pending in the case.

B. The Claims Are Not Indefinite Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3 and 6-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, and 9 have been amended for clarification. Applicant submits that all the claims are now definite.

C. Claim 7 Has Been Substantially Rewritten in Independent Form

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 7, 11, 12, and 14-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1, and the claims dependent on claim 1 (claims 2-5, 8-9, and 20-22), now include features from claim 7. As such, Applicant submits that claims 1, 2-5, 8-9, and 20-22, are in condition for allowance.

D. The Claims Are Not Anticipated By The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9 as being anticipated by PCT Published Patent Application No. WO 98/44309. Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest the combination of features recited in Applicant's claims.

E. The Claims Are Not Anticipated By The Cited Art Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 6, 10, and 13 as being unpatentable over PCT Published Patent Application No. WO 98/44309 in view of European Patent No. EP 0 511 182. Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest the combination of features recited in Applicant's claims.

F. Prior Art Made of Record

The Examiner states that U.S. Patent No. 6,865,977 to Kim et al. ("Kim") and U.S. Patent No. 7,219,588 to Pastrnak et al. ("Pastrnak") are prior art not relied upon, but considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant's application claims priority to PCT Application Serial No. PCT/FR02/02199, as acknowledged in the filing receipt issued by the U.S. Patent Office, which was filed on June 25, 2002. Kim appears to have a priority date of July 10, 2003, which is after Applicant's priority date of June 25, 2002. Applicant submits that Kim is not prior art to Applicant's application. Pastrnak appears to have a priority date of April 2, 2004, which is after Applicant's priority date of June 25, 2002. Applicant submits that Pastrnak is not prior art to Applicant's application.

Additionally, Applicant submits that neither Pastrnak nor Kim appears to teach or suggest the combination of features of Applicant's claims.

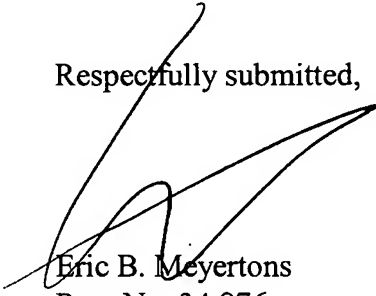
G. Summary

Based on the above, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Charles Laubie
10/519,277

Applicant respectfully requests a one-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated January 8, 2008. A fee authorization form in the amount of \$60.00 is enclosed for the extension of time fee. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5310-08000/EBM

Respectfully submitted,



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